



Southwest Washington is loaded with high quality golf courses

Inside Golf takes a look at Southwest Washington and what the courses in this region have to offer. We'll also explore some of the options golfers have while traveling with an RV and the overnight parking at golf courses like Sage Hills in Warden, Wash. (right). Many of the courses in SW Washington are close to the I-5 corridor. See the special section for more.



WHAT'S NEW IN NW GOLF

Clarkston native Dahmen scores first win on Tour

Pacific Northwest native Joel Dahmen has found his way into the PGA Tour winner's circle by winning the Corales Puntacana Resort and Club Championship.

It was the first PGA Tour victory for the 33-year-old Dahmen, who is from Clarkston, Wash. and went to the University of Washington. Dahmen finished the tournament at 12 under par winning by one shot.

Dahmen had finished second twice on the PGA Tour and had 12 top-10 finishes before notching his first PGA Tour career victory.

The win comes with plenty of perks - including being exempt on the PGA Tour through 2022, an invite to this year's PGA Championship and an invite to next year's Players Championship.

Congratulations Joel.

Looking for a tournament? There are plenty to choose

If you are looking to stay competitive in the 2021 golf season, the Pacific Northwest Golf Association and WA Golf make it easy for you with a series of some terrific tournament. Here is a look at what they offer for 2021 for both the PNGA and WA Golf.

PNGA tournaments:

- June 8-10: Senior Men's Amateur at Wine Valley, Walla Walla, Wash.
- June 8-10: Super Senior Men's Amateur at Wine Valley, Walla Walla, Wash.
- June 8-10: Senior Women's Amateur at Wine Valley, Walla Walla, Wash.
- June 8-10: Super Senior Women's Amateur at Wine Valley, Walla Walla, Wash.
- July 19-23: Women's Amateur at The Home Course, DuPont, Wash.
- July 19-23: Women's Mid-Amateur at The Home Course, DuPont, Wash.
- July 26-31: Men's Amateur at The Idaho Club, Sandpoint, Idaho.

WA Golf Championships:

- May 13-14: Men's Four-Ball at Desert Canyon, Orondo, Wash.
- May 13-14: Senior Men's Four-Ball at Desert Canyon, Orondo, Wash.
- May 17-18: Women's Four-Ball at Rainier Golf and CC, Seattle.
- June 15-16: Senior and Super Senior Women's Amateur at Fairwood CC, Renton.
- June 15-17: Women's Amateur and Mid-Amateur at Fairwood CC, Renton.

See www.thepnga.org for more events.

Rules Quiz

A player chips his third shot up a hill in stroke play. The ball didn't quite make it to the top of the hill and began to roll back to him. While it is rolling back down the hill, he moved a divot he had created out of the way so that the ball didn't hit it. He chipped and putts to complete the hole. He didn't know that moving that loose impediment was not allowed and returned his scorecard with a score of 6 for the hole. The Committee became aware of his actions before the competition was completed. As the lead official how would you rule? See Page 2 for the answer.

Changes could be coming soon for the way amateurs receive prizes and keep eligibility

The USGA and The R&A have announced proposals for significant changes to the Rules of Amateur Status that govern the game worldwide.

These proposals result from a modernization initiative that has identified a clear need to bring the Rules up to date to reflect today's global amateur game and ensure that the Rules are easier to understand and apply.

The proposed Rules, along with explanations to key changes, have been posted on usga.org and randa.org and the organizations are now inviting feedback from golfers and stakeholders. Comments were accepted through Friday, March 26, with the new Rules scheduled to be adopted on January 1, 2022.

This review reaffirmed amateur golf's important

position in the game and the value in maintaining amateur status Rules to safeguard all the ways golf is played and enjoyed.

The result is a set of Rules that redefine the distinction between amateur and professional golf and provide a condition of eligibility – amateur status – for amateurs who compete in golf competitions.

As part of the modernization effort, it is proposed that the new Rules will identify only three acts that will result in a golfer losing their amateur status:

- Accepting a prize in excess of the prize limit.
- Accepting payment for giving instruction.
- Accepting employment as a golf club professional or membership of an association of professional golf-

ers. To achieve this simplified approach, the following key changes are proposed:

- Eliminating the distinction between cash prizes and other prizes.
- Using the prize limit as the only way an amateur can lose amateur status through their play (meaning that entering or playing a competition as a professional would not, of itself, result in the loss of a player's amateur status).
- Removing restrictions from the Rules surrounding competitions such as long-drive events, putting competitions and skills competitions that are not played as part of a tee-to-hole competition; and
- Eliminating all sponsorship restrictions.

Tacoma's Highlands celebrates 90th anniversary in 2021



Highlands Golf Course in Tacoma is hitting a milestone this summer with its 90th anniversary. The course, which sits along Highway 16 near the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, has undergone several improvements led by new owner Jack Connelly. One of the biggest has been the re-modeling of the clubhouse and opening of a new restaurant and outdoor patio area. More improvements are on the way to the course. See inside for more on Highlands.

Central Oregon Shootout returns with a three-day tournament at some of the area's best golf courses

The 2021 Central Oregon Shootout is set for April 23-25 at some of Central Oregon's top golf courses including Black Butte, Eagle Crest and Aspen Lakes.

But things might look a little different this year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

There will be no Thursday evening gathering, everyone will get their Tee prizes the morning of the first day of play in correspondence with flighted course rotations.

The fee as is the same \$650 per team. In lieu of the Thursday eve gathering, an increase in the value of Tee Prizes & KP's prizes will take place.

The tournament format calls for three different formats including best ball, scramble and stableford.

The plan is calling for split tees and tee times instead of a shotgun. Tee times will most likely start at 9:30 a.m.

All Team members are encouraged to ride together. If you traveled together, are staying together and playing together, you can ride together. There will be two carts per group, you can decide to walk or ride.

For questions call 541-595-1292 or email Dmccleery@blackbutteranch.com.

Chambers Bay will be in the USGA spotlight when it hosts Four-Ball in May

Chambers Bay in University Place, Wash. will find itself in the national spotlight again when it hosts the USGA Men's Amateur Four-Ball Championship May 22-26.

Chambers Bay, along with The Home Course in DuPont, Wash. will host the first two qualifying rounds of the tournament before the teams who qualify get set for the match play part of the tournament.

This will be the first USGA championship to be held at Chambers Bay since the 2015 United States Open that was won by Jordan Spieth. The U.S. Amateur in 2010 was also held at Chambers Bay and The Home Course was again the companion course for that tournament as well.

For more information on the USGA Four-Ball Championship, see www.usga.org.

Wildfire Golf Club: Even the sand traps are a treat at this Phoenix-area golf resort

As we stepped to the first tee of the Wildfire's Faldo Course, the starter gave us his usual spiel. Make sure to use a 90-degree rule, stay away from the greens with the carts, the fact there will be a beverage cart rolling around the course and where the rest rooms are located (always important when there is a beverage cart roaming the premises of course).

And one last nugget he threw in there. "Enjoy the 108 bunkers." Did we hear him right? Yes, enjoy the 108 bunkers. That's 1-0-8. And after 18 holes at the Wildfire Faldo Course, we found plenty of them. And these just weren't little guys around the fairways and greens, some of these were so big it looked like a desert.

But I will say that is what makes the Faldo Course at Wildfire a treat - the bunkers, the large greens, the inviting fairways and the surround scenery with the McDowell Mountains.

Traveling during COVID-19 has been a plus, yes, I have taken the proper precautions, masking up everywhere, not getting close to people but why not take advantage of the cheap fares and play places that would not normally be on my schedule.

Wildfire is part of the JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge and Spa Resort in Phoenix. When you make the turn into the resort, you know you are in a different world. The resort spread across acres, there are two golf courses (the other being an Arnold Palmer design) and there are amenities galore. In fact, the LPGA had its Founders Tournament from 2011-18 at the resort, using nine holes of each course.

It's easy to see why this place was named one of Travel and Leisure Golf's "World's Best Resorts" and Conde Nast Traveler's Top 100 Golf Resorts.

This is a place which is a golfer's paradise. In addition to the two courses, there is a large practice area, multiple putting greens and, of course, a sand trap for practice before you tee off. And if your game decides to get crazy, you will be glad for that sand bunker tune up before you tee off.

You get a taste of just how big the resort is as



the Faldo Course winds around the hotel and swimming pools. It's enough to distract you for a while, until you hit a ball in one of those 108 bunkers.

But it is a treat and if you are looking for a place to get spoiled for a day, this is the place.

Steve Turcotte is editor of Inside Golf Newspaper. He can be reached at sturturcotte@comcast.net.



The JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort and Spa features two courses at its Wildfire Golf Club.



Bob Marlatt
Publisher

Steve Turcotte
Editor-Advertising

Kathy Marlatt
Operations Manager

Contributing Writers
Jeff Coston, Pat Campbell,
Ryan Young

Photography: Scott Bisch
Cartoonist: Harold Bluestein

Subscription rates:
\$17-one year and \$30-two years
(U.S. funds).

Unsolicited articles and photos are welcome, however we will accept no liability for their loss or damage, and will only return them if prior arrangements have been made with the publisher.

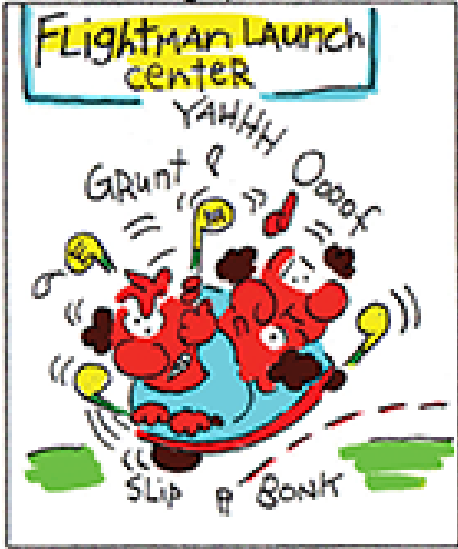
Courier Address
460 Dennis Blvd
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 1890
Port Townsend, WA 98368

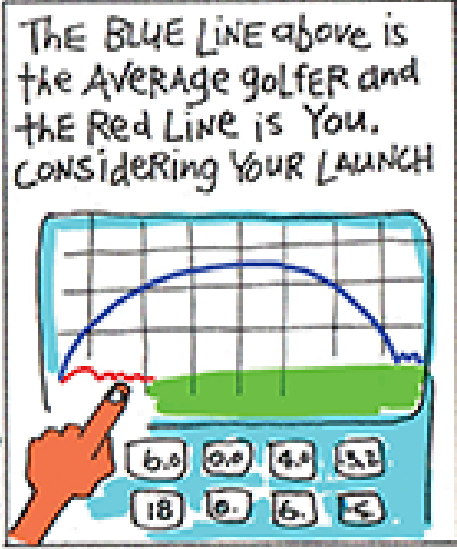
Phone
(360) 379-4080

E-mail Address
InsideGolf@cablespeed.com
www.insidegolfnewspaper.com
Inside Golf Newspaper is a trademark of
Northwest Publications, Inc. and is published on the first of each month.

Double Bogey



Harold Bluestein PGA



Rules Answer

• Answer: The Committee should adjust his score for that hole and add the two-stroke penalty for a breach of Rule 15.1a. A total of 8. See Explanation Rule 11.3; Exception 2 to Rule 15.1a.; Exception to Rule 3.3b(3).

• Inside Golf would like to thank Paul Lucien for his rules questions each month.

TOPTRACER RANGE

now available at:

Jefferson Park Golf Course
4101 Beacon Ave S. Seattle, WA

Interbay Golf Center
2501 15th Ave W. Seattle, WA

Jackson Park Golf Course
1000 NE 135th St., Seattle, WA

www.PremierGC.com

**PRACTICE, PLAY, OR COMPETE AGAINST FRIENDS...
TRY OUT TOPTRACER TODAY!**

First African-American USGA champ Wright passes away; Myrtle Beach World Amateur set for its 2021 tournament

Bill Wright, who was inducted into the Pacific Northwest Golf Hall of Fame in 2013 after a career which included being the first Black golfer to win a USGA national championship, passed away at 84.

Wright was born in Kansas City, Missouri, and his family moved west when he was 12. He started playing golf at 14, joining the Fir State Golf Club’s junior program at Seattle’s Jefferson Park Golf Course.

Fir State was established in 1947 to combat discriminatory practices and, at the same time, to promote access to golf within the minority community. An important part of the club’s mission was to stimulate interest and participation of young people in the game.

Wright was introduced to the game by his parents, Bob and Madeline, who were early members of Fir State. Bill was one of the first participants in Fir State’s junior golf program in the 1950s, and within a year after picking up the game he was the city’s Junior champion.

Myrtle Beach World Am Aug. 30-Sept. 3

Looking for the ultimate tournament challenge, then the Myrtle Beach World Amateur just might be your answer. The tournament will feature over 3,000 players and is set for Aug. 30-Sept. 3 at some of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina’s top courses.

The tournament features divisions for men, women and seniors. There is also a gross division. Each player will play four rounds in their division with the top players from each division meeting for the world championship on the fifth and final day of the tournament.

Players will play a different course each day and the format calls for stroke play with net scores.

For more, call 800.8733.8798.

Chambers Bay offer academy programs

Chambers Bay in University Place, Wash. is offering a variety of academy programs for golfers of

different ages to improve their games.

High School Prep Clinics are available for high school players looking to improve their games and have their sights set on college golf.

The PGA Junior League is open to players 17 and under and players will receive coaching from PGA instructors and have organized team practice sessions and regular matches.

Welcome2Golf is a way for beginners to learn their way around the golf course.

Local U.S. Open qualifiers are set

The United States Golf Association (USGA) announced local qualifying sites for the 121st U.S. Open Championship. The U.S. Open will be contested at Torrey Pines Golf Course (South Course), in San Diego, Calif., for the second time from June 17-20, 2021. Local qualifying, conducted over 18 holes at 109 sites in 43 U.S. states and Canada, will take place between April 26-May 18.

In 2020, U.S. Open qualifying was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to an all-exempt field at Winged Foot Golf Club. The USGA accepted 9,125 entries for the 2019 championship at Pebble Beach (Calif.) Golf Links. The record of 10,127 entries was established for the 2014 championship on Pinehurst Resort & Country Club’s Course No. 2, in the Village of Pinehurst, N.C.

The Northwest local qualifiers will be:

- May 3 at Bremerton’s Gold Mountain Olympic Course.
- May 10 at Willamette Valley Country Club in Canby, Ore.
- May 10 at Gamble Sands in Brewster, Wash.

Youth on Course a boon for kids

Ever since it started, the Youth on Course organization has been a boon for kids looking to get into the

game of golf. With the price of golf sometimes fairly high, the Youth on Course program has been a way for kids to play a round of golf for \$5 - at a variety of golf courses around the country. The program is quite popular in the Pacific Northwest as many courses offer the \$5 program for youths looking to play a round of golf. Youth on Course has taken away the barriers of cost for kids to play.

Over 100,000 kids, age 6-18, have signed up for the program and have access to over 1,400 golf courses around the country for \$5 or less. The program has subsidized over 1,000,000 rounds of golf for kids and has saved families \$8 million in greens fees. Also, Youth on Course is offering college scholarships - making \$250,000 available every year. For more info, see the www.youthoncourse.org or WAgolf.org/YOC.

Washington Golf Pass offers deals

The Washington Golf Pass is one way that golfers in the Pacific Northwest can save on deals. The pass is available for free for WAGolf members and is a way to save money on every round you play golf. The pass is good for courses in Washington and Northern Idaho and will save you money on rounds and golf packages. See www.wagolfpass.com for more.

GolfTEC opens SE Portland location

GolfTEC has opened a new instruction and club fitting center in Portland, Oregon at 1034 SE 96th Ave. Portland, OR 97216.

The new facility is 2,200 square feet and has four teaching / practice bays along with a putting green, and is staffed by a veteran team of highly-trained and certified coaches. The facility also features the company’s enhanced custom club fitting program.

GolfTEC Southeast Portland Regional Manager & Director of Instruction Chris Woods will oversee operations at the new facility. Having taught over

Golfweek Amateur Tour hits the NW

The Golfweek Amateur Tour is the longest-running amateur golf tournament entering its 27th season in January of 2021.

April 2021 marks the start of our 2nd Annual Season in the Seattle-Tacoma area. After a year of COVID-19 closures and restrictions, we’re excited to bring the tournament back for the Western Washington area. From April to September registrants will have the chance to play at the finest and most beautiful courses along the I-5 corridor. The Season Opens on 17 April, 2021 at North Shore Golf Course. Come see if you have what it takes to qualify for Nationals!

The purpose of the Tour is to provide stroke-play golf tournaments for golfers of all ages and handicaps. Golfweek Amateur Tour strives to promote the sport of golf by providing an atmosphere of friendly, fair, and well-managed competition for amateur golfers in the pursuit of excellence. During the season, local tour locations conduct 10-15 tournaments in their area to determine a points winner in each flight. The season culminates with the top points leaders from each flight and each local tour competing for the National Championship. The 2020 Amateur Golf Tour hosted more than 700 tournaments starting in January and ending within October with the Tour Championship in Hilton Head, SC.

15,000 lessons and receiving the 2019 Bill Strausbaugh and 2020 Patriot Awards in the Oregon PGA Chapter, Chris is able to understand the unique needs from each student and help them maximize their potential.



GLENDOVEER

Golf • Tennis

Play...

Golf | Tennis | Foot Golf

Two 18-Hole Championship Courses

Four Indoor Tennis Courts

One 18-Hole FootGolf Course

Two-Tier Heated Driving Range

Events • GolfBoards

Located just 15 minutes from downtown Portland!

Schedule your next round with us today!



14015 NE Glisan Street | Portland, OR 97230 | Tel: (503) 253-7507 | www.playglendoveer.com

Tacoma's Highlands Golf Course celebrates a milestone in 2021 with its 90th anniversary

There's a "brand-new" golf course beckoning you in Tacoma and you'll never believe that it's 90 years old. You might also find it hard to believe but we're talking about the seventh best public course in the entire state (regardless of size), ranked by *Golf Advisors* in their annual course evaluations.

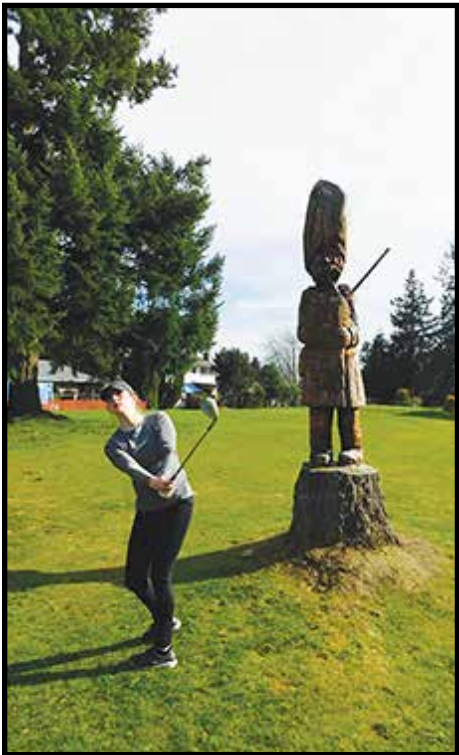
And, yes, Highlands truly is 90 years old. More than a million and a half rounds have been played at that "gem" of a par 3 course near the Tacoma Narrows bridge in its "almost century" of golf. The anniversary celebration may be all year long beginning on June 20th and Highland's new owner Jack Connelly feels that short courses will play a key role in the future of the golf business.

"Many of today's golfers don't have five or six hours to spend on a golf course on a regular basis" he says, "and there's a bonus, like working on one's all-important short game and more opportunities for the thrill of an "Ace."

The new owner has completely remodeled and rejuvenated every imaginable aspect of the par three layout and local golfers have responded by playing 12,500 more rounds there than the year before. There's not much better proof than that. Many think its greens have become the best in the state.

A new irrigation system will be completed soon. The scenic beauty of course surroundings are examples of the "new" Highlands and they speak for themselves. Even the carved wooden statue of Angus McDuff, at hole #9, adds to the competitive atmosphere of the game.

There's also a new on-site café, (McDuff's), in the newly remodeled clubhouse. It has a new extended patio with an outdoor fireplace and a new fire pit. So, what's the same at Highlands? It's motto says it best - "Half the Time - Twice the Fun". You can say goodbye to five and six hour rounds elsewhere. Best of all, you can take a shot at golf's biggest thrill on every hole - a



Highlands Golf Course in Tacoma is celebrating a milestone this year being in business for 90 years.

hole-in-one! Yes 9 opportunities for an ace await you on every 9 hole round. Think about that! Looking for a place that offers more "fun" for every kind of player? Highlands offers it and then some. Family golf, for instance. Tuning-up that short game in readiness for championship play, for example. So give Highlands pro Don Mojean a call and reserve your spot! You'll find that it's no wonder Golf Advisors has evaluated the Highlands among the top public seven in the state along with its nearby neighbor Chamber's Bay (they are number two, just behind White Horse in Kingston). Pretty good company, huh?

"Many of today's golfers don't have five or six hours to spend on a golf course on a regular basis" he says, "and there's a bonus, like working on one's all-important short game and more opportunities for the thrill of an "Ace."

- Jack Connelly, Highlands owner

IN IT TO WIN IT

PLAYGOLFMYRTLEBEACH.COM

WORLD AMATEUR

SIGN UP TODAY!
(800) 833-8798
MyrtleBeachWorldAmateur.com

MUCKLESHOOT Rewards

OUR ALL-NEW MUCKLESHOOT REWARDS TIERED PROGRAM WILL BE ROLLING OUT SOON!

Enjoy more benefits per tier than ever before with THREE tiers instead of one.

Visit muckleshootcasino.com for details.

THE BIGGEST & BEST IN THE NORTHWEST

2402 Auburn Way South, Auburn WA 98002
 800-804-4944 | muckleshootcasino.com

Promotions are subject to change without notice. Management reserves all rights.

\$10 IN FREE PLAY

New Players Club members only. To receive, earn **40 base points** and present printed offer.

Code: **PUBIGFP421**

2402 Auburn Way South, Auburn WA 98002
800-804-4944 | muckleshootcasino.com

New Players Club members only. Limit one Free Play redemption per new member signup per month. Not to be combined with other publications, promotional offerings and holidays. Alteration, duplication, or unauthorized use voids this offer. Must be or become a Players Club member to participate. Membership is free! Offer expires April 30, 2020. Free Play may not be available on all machines. Promotions are subject to change without notice. Management reserves all rights.

JOIN THE CLUB.

IT'S FREE!

Ben Stodghill named new president of Pacific Northwest Golf Association

Ben Stodghill of Kirkland, Wash. has been elected as the new president of the Pacific Northwest Golf Association. He succeeds Peter Fibiger of Victoria, B.C., who had served as PNGA president since May 2018.

Since 2006, Ben has served as chairman of the PNGA Championship Committee. Ben has significant credentials, all designating his commitment to the game, and his enjoyment of giving back to it.

For nearly two decades, Ben has served as treasurer of the Bellevue (Wash.) Golf Course men's club. Since 2007, he has been on the PNGA Board of Directors, and since 2010 he has served on the PNGA Executive Committee as a vice president. In 2008, Ben received WA Golf's George Holland Award as their Volunteer of the Year. And in 2014, Ben received the PNGA Distinguished Service Award, considered the highest honor the association bestows.

Arrowhead team wins PNW Pro-Am

The PNW Pro-Assistant Championship finished up at Willamette Valley CC in a playoff. The team led by General Manager Bryce Fisher and Assistant Golf Professional David Brown of Arrowhead GC (Molalla, OR) won the tournament after firing rounds of 62-67-129 (15 under). The team won in a four-hole playoff over the team led by Head PGA Professional Mitch Runge and PGA Assistant Professional Shane Prante of The Home Course (DuPont, WA). In third place was Head PGA Professional Darren Black and Assistant PGA Professional Brad Faller of Rainier G&CC (Seattle, WA).

• The PGA Northwest section kicks off its 2021 championship schedule in May with the Muckleshoot Washington Open May 24-26 at Meridian Valley Country Club in Kent.



Val Patrick Has moved to the Snohomish Valley Golf Center

She is now welcoming your lesson inquiries.

Snohomish Valley Golf Center
360-568-2493
snohomishvalleygolfcenter.com

Take lessons from a Highly Experienced Golf Professional
Lessons for all ages and skill levels from beginner thru advanced

Tour Players With Northwest ties

- PGA Tour**
- Kevin Chappell • Kirkland • 178th on the list with \$103,914
 - Ben Crane • Portland • No Events
 - Joel Dahmen • Clarkston • 70th on the list with \$973,312
 - Robert Garrigus • Gresham • No Events
 - Scott Harrington • Portland • 151st on the list with \$249,713
 - Ryan Moore • Puyallup • 181st on the list with \$132,405
 - Cheng Tsung Pan • Ex-UW • 68th on the list with \$984,516
 - Andrew Putnam • Tacoma • 66th on the list with \$996,678
 - Kyle Stanley • Gig Harbor • 112th on the list with \$525,498
 - Nick Taylor • Ex-UW • 117th on the list with \$504,638
 - Aaron Wise • Ex-Oregon • 51st on the list with \$1,232,366
- Korn Ferry Tour**
- Alistar Docherty • Vancouver, Wash. • 249th on the list with \$2,514
 - Robert Garrigus • Gresham • 155th on the list with \$22,478
 - Andres Gonzales • Olympia • 147th on the list with \$27,490
 - Alex Prugh • Spokane • 128th on the list with \$39,518
 - Dylan Wu • Medford • 4th on the list with \$346,014
- Champions Tour**
- Fred Couples • Seattle • 12th on the list with \$798,876
 - Bob Gilder • Corvallis • No Events
 - Brian Henninger • Eugene • No Events
 - Peter Jacobsen • Portland • No Events
 - Kirk Triplett • Pullman • 32nd on the list with \$383,485
- Mackenzie Tour (Canada)**
- Derek Barron • Puyallup • No Events
 - Alistar Docherty • Vancouver, Wash. • No Events
 - Chris Killmer • Bellingham • No Events
 - Cory Pereira • Ex-UW • No Events
 - Chris Williams • Ex-UW • No Events
 - Eugene Wong • Ex-Oregon • No Events
- LPGA Tour**
- Carolyn Inglis • Eugene • 108th on the list with \$3,758
 - Jing Yan • Ex-UW • 46th on the list with \$37,112
- LPGA Symetra Tour**
- Jamie Huo • Kent • No Events
 - Jimin Kang • Seattle • No Events
 - Mallory Kent • Seattle • No Events
 - Sadena Parks • Tacoma • No Events
 - Gigi Stoll • Tigard • No Events
 - Kim Welch • Ex-WSU • No Events

HIGHLANDS GOLF COURSE

Half the Time, Twice the Fun

The days are getting longer - SPRING is on the horizon! Meet us at McDuffs' Café!
Cozy up by the outdoor fireplaces and join us for some spring golf.





RATES

1400 N Highlands Pkwy
Tacoma WA 98406
(253) 759-3622

9-HOLES REGULAR: \$15.50
18-HOLES REGULAR: \$23
10-ROUND PUNCH CARD: \$130

The Lesson Tee: The ‘Wall Drill’ should help you with your ball striking this golf season

I love the spring, summer and fall! Winter not so much. I love teaching golf and playing tournaments! I encourage all to set some golf goals and practical ways to achieve them.

Play a couple tournaments also along the way during that time.

See Photo 1. “Wall Drill.” This drill and image is so effective! Please “Just Do It!” Your ball striking with improve. Turn hips and pivot without swaying and touch the wall slightly above shoulder high. This drill creates depth on the backswing to encourage a proper/shallow/on plane/not steep angle of approach to the golf ball. So key! Imagine “The Wall” as you play and practice.

Photo 2. Another effective way to promote depth on backswing and proper shallowing on downswing is an anti-lift pole. Big time proper practice and image on course. Ben Hogan imagined a plane of glass on his shoulders, swinging under it without breaking the glass!



And then check the results. Photo 1 and 2 produce Photo 3.

Jeff Coston is a multiple Pacific Northwest PGA Player of the Year. He has been awarded PGA Teacher of the Year. Jeff can be reached for appointment at Semiahmoo Resort in Blaine by calling 360.201.4590. See jeffcoston.com.

See Photo1. “Wall Drill.” This drill and image is so effective! Please “Just Do It!” Your ball striking with improve. Turn hips and pivot without swaying and touch the wall slightly above shoulder high. This drill creates depth on the backswing to encourage a proper/shallow/on plane/not steep angle of approach to the golf ball. So key! Imagine “The Wall” as you play and practice.



Photo #1



Photo #2



Photo #3

LEARN TO PLAY FROM A PRO

WHO PLAYED FOR A LIVING

CHAMPIONS TOUR PROFESSIONAL

Inducted into the PNW PGA Hall of Fame

23-time PNW PGA Player of the Year

All time Major Tournament Winner in NW golf history

“Jeff Coston is one of the most talented golfers I’ve ever played with. Beyond that, he’s one of the nicest guys I know.”

Tom Lehman...

2006 Ryder Cup Captain & 1997 Leading Money Winner and Player of the Year

Jeff COSTON

Golf Academy

360-201-4590

www.ieffcoston.com

Lake Wilderness Golf Course

ADVANTAGE MEMBERSHIP

LIVE WHERE YOU PLAY

Discover Washington's best golf value today and enjoy unlimited golf without time restrictions for all 2021!

APRIL SPECIAL

ONLY \$99

425.432.9405

Rules of the Game: Know what to do when your ball is muddy

It's spring, the temperatures are rising, and the golf courses are calling your name. There are a couple of conditions common to spring golf in the Pacific Northwest.... mud and goose poop. Knowing what you are allowed to do in these situations within the Rules of Golf is useful and might even win you a bet or two at the 19th hole even if you never have to apply them.

The first step is to find out if your course or your competition group has established any kind of local rule(s) for lift, clean and place for balls in muddy conditions. The local rule could be for: 1) the course in general, 2) only a ball on the fairways or even only for 3) a specific hole which is prone to wet conditions. If there is no local rule in place, you play your ball as it lies. Some folks like to claim a muddy ball is embedded, fair enough, just be certain that the ball is embedded in its own pitch mark. If you have seen it bounce and roll, it's not embedded in its own pitch mark.

If lift, clean and place is allowed, that is exactly what you are entitled to do: lift your ball, clean it and place it back on its spot on the course. The wording of "preferred lies" adds the additional provision of placing it on a "better lie," usually within a club length. Check the wording and smile!

You may be playing with purists who feel the concept of "play the course as you find it and your ball as it lies" is the true test of golf. Your ball looks muddy, what are you allowed to do? Not a lot; if you can identify it as yours, you play it as it lies. If you can't identify it Rule 7.3 says you are allowed to lift the ball (mark it first! and clean it enough to identify it. When you return it to the course you may position it so that the remaining mud is facing away from your club face, but you cannot tee it up using the mud as a tee.

Now, let's look at the goose poop issue. No, it really doesn't qualify as a dangerous condition, sorry. It's much like the mud on your ball. If you can identify it as your ball, you are to play it as it lies. If you cannot identify it, Rule 7.3 gives you authorization to lift the ball (again, mark it first!), clean it enough to identify it,

Pat Campbell



and return it to its location on the course. Once again you can position the remaining droppings away from your club face but cannot tee the ball up on it. In both cases, keep your mouth closed when you hit the ball, you'd hate to get a splat of mud or poop!

Just a note, cleaning it more than enough to identify it is a one stroke penalty. Secondly, if you fail to mark it first, you have a one stroke penalty and you can now clean it all you want. Plus, you always have the option of declaring it unplayable for one stroke and now you can clean it all you wish, or substitute another ball, and play it in a different location under any of the three options available under Rule 19. It's always worth considering.



Know the rules when your ball is covered in mud.

Ryan Young: When it comes to chipping, par is always OK

What's the point of chipping? I ask this question to all my students who are seeking help with their short game. Most all of them answer incorrectly by saying, "to make it." It's a logical answer, but one that is most likely the cause of their struggles in the first place. The point of chipping isn't to make it, but to give your self the best opportunity to save par.

A chip replaces a lag putt. When you hit the green in regulation, you're afforded two putts to make par. In this scenario, the average golfer will use their first putt to lag close to the hole and tap in for par. When you miss the green, you exchange one of your putts for a chip, thus making your chip a lag opportunity to help you save par. On Tour, any putt inside three feet has a 99% chance going in. Anything outside five feet and the chance of saving par drops drastically (a point of discussion for another day). So the real goal of chipping is to get it inside three feet.

Continuing with this thought process, you must then determine the best club selection for your chip. This is when I believe confidence outweighs strategy. Young amateurs are frequently ridiculed for choosing too much loft around the green. Logic says to only choose the loft necessary to carry onto the green and then roll out to the hole. However, if all you do is practice with your lob wedge and you are more confident controlling your distance with it, then fire away. Its only when distance control becomes an issue that we should discuss the "bump and run" with less loft.

This brings us to our last point. If you want to get better at chipping it inside three feet, then you must elevate your course management. As you are hitting your approach shot, you must strategize your miss (see my last article for more detail on this topic). If you can plan your missed approach shot in an area easiest for your chipping abilities, then you are giving yourself the best opportunity to save par. Better think twice before you fire directly at a

Ryan Young



tucked flag.

With a little course management, some statistics, and most importantly GAME management, you will undoubtedly start lowering your scores. This all can be done before we even address your swing mechanics. Its really a simple concept, but hard to remember in the moment. Let the "Inside 3 Feet" concept help give you confidence next time you're chipping and save par.

For more detail on this concept follow Ryan Young Golf on YouTube and Instagram. To sign up for remote coaching, visit www.chambersbaygolf.com.

NILE SHRINE GOLF COURSE

& #19 BAR & GRILL IN MOUNTLAKE TERRACE

18 HOLES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Exit #177 off I-5, West 1/4 mile on the right

Book your tee time today at
www.nileshriners.org

Check out our website for more coupons!

TEE TIMES: 425-776-5154

SHUKSAN

"2021" PLAYERS CARD

Eight -18 Hole Green Fees*

(8) Round Card

\$239⁰⁰+tax (USD)

(8) Round Card w/Cart

\$339⁰⁰+tax (USD)

*Cart based on 2 riders per cart. Single riders subject to surcharge.
*Card valid Mon - Fri and *Sat & Sun subject to *10.00 surcharge non cart/12.00 with cart surcharge p.p.
Not valid US/CDN Holidays.
Expires Dec. 31st, 2021. Card is non-refundable and can not be extended. Golf card valid for primary cardholder and up to (3) accompanied guests the same day. Call for details.

1.360.398.8888 Whatcom County
1.800.801.8897 Toll Free
1500 E. Axton Rd., Bellingham, WA
email: shuksangolf@comcast.net

GOLF CLUB

Golf Digest "Places to Play"
★★★★ Four Star Award
Championship Public Golf
www.shuksangolf.com

SEATTLE/TACOMA

GOLF WEEK AMATEUR TOUR

WHERE AMATEURS PLAY LIKE PROS

THE 2021 TOUR SCHEDULE

(Bold indicate 2-day events for double points)

4/17	North Shore
5/1	The Classic
5/15	Trophy Lake and Cast
6/12	Washington National
6/26	Salish Cliffs
7/10	Redmond Ridge
7/24	Chambers Bay
7/25	The Home Course
8/7	McCormick Woods
8/14	Lake Spanaway
8/21	The Links at Moses Pointe
8/28	Harbor Pointe
9/12-13	Hawks Prairie GC (Links & Woodland)

Tour Championship in Hilton Head, SC.

GOLF WEEK AMATEUR TOUR

Email: seattle@amateurgolftour.net
www.amateurgolftour.net
360.338.1603

Myths about establishing a handicap

Think having a handicap isn’t for you? Think again.

Below we dispel some myths that have been ingrained in the minds of many golfers about getting and maintaining a handicap.

Handicaps are only for really good golfers

Any golfer, whether they’re a novice or a seasoned player, can establish a handicap index at any time in their golf journey. The underlying purpose of the Handicap system is to level the playing field so golfers of differing abilities can compete fairly with each other for a more enjoyable game.

I’m not a good enough golfer to get a handicap

Establishing a handicap index and posting your scores consistently provides you with a tool for tracking your progress and will only make you a better golfer. Obviously, watching your scores go down is fun to see, but when your scores aren’t getting better, that’s your cue to make adjustments or to take a lesson for a tune-up.

I only golf for fun

Having a handicap takes your game to a whole other level of fun. Sure, golf is an individual sport, but with a handicap you can have a friendly competition or side games with other handicap holders in your group regardless of differences in playing ability.

If you enjoy the challenge of competition and want to play against golfers with similar or better skill levels, consider entering a golf tournament. Many tournaments, including WA Golf championships, require a handicap to ensure that you are placed in the proper division for a fair competition.

Planning a dream golf trip to play Royal County Down or the Old Course at St. Andrews? If you don’t have a handicap yet, better give yourself enough time to play and post scores for three 18-hole rounds of golf to get

your handicap. Some golf clubs abroad require proof of handicap to play on their course.

You have to post a lot of scores to get a handicap index

With the new World Handicap System, you only need to post a total of 54 holes, made up of 9- or 18-hole scores, to get your handicap. The more scores you post, the more accurate your Handicap Index.

It takes too much time

There’s an app for that. The USGA GHIN app makes it convenient to post your scores. You can post after every hole, after every round or post scores later when get you home. Just do it as soon as practical after your round. Your Handicap Index will be updated overnight and your score will be included in the daily Playing Conditions Calculation for that course.

I don’t want to do math

Again, there’s an app for that. Simply upload your scores on the app and GHIN takes care of the computation for you. Your Handicap Index is adjusted daily.

I have to join a club

This one is actually not a myth. Core to the USGA Handicap System is the idea of peer review and oversight, hence the requirement to be a member of a certified USGA “golf club” to maintain a handicap. Fortunately, WA Golf has more than 600 clubs to choose from throughout

Washington and Northern Idaho. Think of them more like communities of golfers who get together to play for fun, competition and camaraderie. Still not your thing? Many WA Golf clubs offer an Associate level membership providing only your USGA Handicap Index and its computational services with no strings attached, while still receiving other WA Golf member benefits. Visit wagolf.org/join to learn more about different membership options.

I need a handicap to play golf

Not true at all! In fact, you don’t even have to keep score! Additionally, many golf events run formats, such as Scramble or Shamble, which encourage entries from golfers of all skill levels and don’t require a handicap. But, if you’ve ever considered getting one, don’t let any of the above myths hold you back.

Ready to establish your handicap?

WA Golf is a USGA approved provider and administrator of GHIN (Golf Handicap and Information Network) services. Visit wagolf.org/handicap to get started or for more information.



Post your scores and track your playing history with the official USGA GHIN app, free to all WA Golf members and available from the App Store or Google Play.



Youths ages 6-18 Play \$5 Rounds of Golf

Participating Courses:

Alderbrook GC
Allenmore Golf Course
Alta Lake Golf Resort
Battle Creek Golf Course
Bear Mountain Ranch
Bellevue GC
Capitol City GC
Cedarcrest GC
Chambers Bay GC
Columbia Super Range
Desert Aire Golf Course
Desert Canyon Golf Resort
Discovery Bay GC
Downriver GC
Esmeralda GC
Enumclaw Golf Course
Gold Mountain GC
High Cedars GC - Champ
High Cedars GC - Exec
Highlands GC

Indian Canyon GC
Interbay Golf Center
Jackson Park GC
Jefferson Park GC
Lake Cushman GC
Lake Limerick Country Club
Lake Padden GC
Lake Spanaway GC
Lake Wilderness GC
Lam's Golf Links
Leavenworth GC
Legion Memorial GC
Lopez Island GC
Lynnwood Municipal GC
McCormick Woods GC
Meadow Park GC
Mt. Adams CC
North Shore GC
Orcas Island GC
Oroville GC
Prairie Falls GC

Peninsula GC (9 holes)
Raspberry Ridge
River Ridge GC
Riverbend Golf Complex
Riverside GC
Rock Island
Sage Hills Golf & RV Resort
Shoshone Golf & Tennis Club
Snohomish Golf Course
Sun Country Golf Resort
Suncadia Resort
Sunland Golf Club
The Cedars at Dungeness
The Home Course
Three Lakes Golf Club
Tumwater Valley GC
Twin Rivers GC
Twin Lakes Village GC
Village Greens Golf Course
Walter E. Hall GC
West Seattle GC
Zintel Creek Golf Club

Course list subject to change



**Youths play \$5 rounds of golf at participating courses with a \$20 WA Golf Youth on Course membership.*

Join now wagolf.org/yoc



Play unlimited, affordable golf

Eleven participating Puget Sound facilities
with your U On Course membership!

Get a buckets of balls at the University of Washington
Driving Range for just \$6.25 anytime

Plus get additional savings with the WA Golf Pass

Annual membership is only \$25.



Join now wagolf.org/uoc